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American Embassy
Paris
June 24, 1953

Dear Livy:

I talked to Doug MacArthur on the telephone yesterday about my conversation with Hugh Millard in Brussels and he will have explained the circumstances to you. I enclose herewith a copy of a memorandum which I sent to Hugh last night that will I believe content him.

Van Zeeland had unexpectedly asked me to see him privately before he came down to Paris on the following Monday to attend a meeting of the Foreign Ministers on the subject of the European Political Community. It was clearly indicated to me that this was to be a purely personal visit. It is embarrassing to me to have such things take place as I realize the complications for local embassies but in this particular instance I had no choice. I have always refrained as far as possible from ever seeing representatives of foreign governments without the attendance or at least the knowledge of the local embassy. I went on from there, as you may have gathered from my cable, to have lunch with my old friend Camille Gutt.

I do not think that you will hear anything more about this from our Embassy in Brussels and you may rest assured that I will never go to one of the foreign capitals without the knowledge of the local Ambassador except under circumstances where it might seem imperative.

With kindest regards,

Very sincerely yours,

David Bruce

Merchant, Livingston

The Honorable
Livingston Merchant,
Assistant Secretary of State
for European Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

DB:GES

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